

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure to read as indicated herein.

~~The present invention discloses~~ There is provided a network management system and a method of managing a network, especially an optical network, that includes ~~ing~~ a plurality of nodes which ~~that~~ are interconnected in an arbitrary topology so as to be capable of carrying traffic between selected nodes. The method comprising ~~includes~~ the steps of providing a supervisory network by means of supervisory channels between the node, ~~providing a node manager which is comprised of~~ including one or more software modules in each node, ~~establishing of~~ supervisory connections over one or more of the supervisory channels between selected nodes through which the node manager communicates with other node managers in other nodes, providing a node module in each node manager that provides an interface to the hardware settings of the respective node, providing a master module in at least one node manager, ~~establishing of~~ supervisory connections over one or more supervisory channels between selected nodes through which the master module communicates with the node modules, and amending and/or monitoring of ~~hardware settings in selected nodes with~~ respective node module of the node. Controlling of ~~the amendments carried out by the node modules and/or processing of the monitored hardware settings is~~ carried out by the master module.